

**Amendments to the Claims**

1-11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~system~~ client host computer for use in reliably transmitting a request wrapped in a request message over a computer network to a server protocol stack in a server host computer, ~~comprising a the~~ client host computer having a client protocol stack for receiving the request from a client application, wrapping the request into a request message, and ~~providing reliable transport of~~ transmitting the request message to the ~~server protocol stack~~ host computer, the client protocol stack when so doing calling a set of functions external to the client protocol stack and that are provided by the client application, the set of functions providing reliable transport-related services to the client protocol stack that may pre-selected to meet the requirements of the client application.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 12, wherein the set of functions provided to the client protocol stack includes a function for determining a retransmission timer interval for an i-th retransmission of the request message and a total allowed number of transmissions of the request message to be made before an error is reported.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim ~~12 or~~ claim 13, wherein the set of functions provided to the client protocol stack includes a function that the client protocol stack may call to wrap the request in the request message.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 14, wherein the function that the client protocol stack may call to wrap the request in the request message adds a header to the request message including an identifying sequence number assigned by the client protocol stack and a type code identifying the type of the request message as a request.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 15, wherein the set of functions provided to the client protocol stack includes a function that the client protocol

stack may call to obtain a starting sequence number and range of allowable sequence numbers for request messages.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim ~~15 or claim~~ 16, wherein the set of functions provided to the client protocol stack includes a function that the client protocol stack may call to parse a message received from the server protocol stack and obtain the type and sequence number of that message.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of ~~any one of claims 15 to 17~~ claim 17, wherein the client protocol stack retransmits the request message if a reply message is received from the server protocol stack that contains the sequence number of the request message is not received before the retransmission timer interval for i-th transmission has elapsed since the request message was transmitted for the i-th time, and the number of times that the request message has been transmitted is less than the total allowed number of transmissions, but if a provisional reply message is received from the server protocol stack that contains the sequence number of the request message, then expiration of the current retransmission timer interval is delayed.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 18, wherein the server host computer has a server protocol stack for receiving a request message transmitted from the client host computer, extracting a request wrapped in the request message, providing the request to a server application running on the server host computer, wrapping a reply received from the server application into a reply message, and transmitting the reply message back to the client host computer, the server protocol stack when so doing calling a set of functions external to the server protocol stack and provided by the server application, the set of functions providing reliable transport-related services to the server protocol stack than may pre-selected to meet the requirements of the server application.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 19, wherein the set of functions provided to the server protocol stack includes a function for determining a reply cache interval for a reply cache timer.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 20, wherein the set of functions provided to the server protocol stack includes a function that the server protocol stack may call to wrap the reply into the reply message.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 21, wherein the function that the server protocol stack may call to wrap the reply in the reply message adds a header to the reply message including the identifying sequence number assigned by the client protocol stack to the corresponding request and a type code identifying the type of the reply message as a reply.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 22, wherein, if the message type of a message received from the client protocol stack indicates that the message contains a request, then the request is delivered to the server application.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 23, wherein, if after delivery of the request to the server application the server application wishes to send a provisional reply, then a message is sent to the client protocol stack containing the sequence number and a message type code indicating that the message is a provisional reply to the request message.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 24, wherein, when a reply message is sent to the client protocol stack, then the reply cache timer interval is started, the reply message is cached in a reply cache, and the cached reply message destroyed upon the expiration of the reply cache timer interval.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 25, wherein, if the message type of a message received from the client protocol stack indicates that the message

contains a request and a cached reply message has the same sequence number, then the cached reply message is resent to the client protocol stack;

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 26, wherein, if the message type of a message received from the client protocol stack indicates that the message is an acknowledgement to a cached reply message, then only the sequence number in the cached reply message is retained in the reply cache; and

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ client host computer of claim 27, wherein when the reply cache timer interval expires, then the cached reply message is deleted.

29. (Original) A server host computer for use in providing reliable transport over a computer network, the server host computer having a server protocol stack for receiving a request message transmitted from a client host computer, providing a request wrapped in the request message to a server application running on the server host computer, wrapping a reply received from the server application in a reply message, and transmitting the reply message back to the client host computer, the server protocol stack when so doing calling a set of functions external to the server protocol stack and provided by the server application, the set of functions providing reliable transport-related services to the server protocol stack than may pre-selected to meet the requirements of the server application.

30. (Original) The server host computer of claim 29, wherein the set of functions includes a function for determining a reply cache interval for a reply cache timer.

31. (Original) The server host computer of claim 30, wherein the set of functions includes a function that the server protocol stack may call to wrap the reply into the reply message.

32. (Original) The server host computer of claim 31, wherein the function that the server protocol stack may call to wrap the reply in the reply message adds a header to the reply

message including the identifying sequence number assigned by the client protocol stack to the corresponding request and a type code identifying the type of the reply message as a reply.

33. (Original) The server host computer of claim 32, wherein, if the message type of a message received from the client protocol stack indicates that the message contains a request, then the request is delivered to the server application.

34. (Original) The server host computer of claim 33, wherein, if after delivery of the request to the server application the server application wishes to send a provisional reply, then a message is sent to the client protocol stack containing the sequence number and a message type code indicating that the message is a provisional reply to the request message.

35. (Original) The server host computer of claim 34, wherein, when a reply message is sent to the client protocol stack, then the reply cache interval is started, the reply message is cached in a reply cache, and the cached reply message destroyed upon the expiration of the reply cache interval.

36. (Original) The server host computer of claim 35, wherein, if the message type of a message received from the client protocol stack indicates that the message contains a request and a cached reply message has the same sequence number, then the cached reply message is resent to the client protocol stack;

37. (Original) The server host computer of claim 36 that the message is an acknowledgement to a cached reply message, then only the sequence number in the cached reply message is retained in the reply cache; and

38. (Original) The server host computer of claim 37, wherein when the reply cache timer expires, then the cached reply message is deleted.

39-69 (Cancelled).

70. (Original) A method for reliably transmitting over a network a request from a client application running on a client system to a server application running on a server system, the method comprising, in the client system:

(a) when a command is received from the client application to open a client socket,

receiving from the client application a set of pointers to a set of personality functions provided by the client application, which include

an open function,

a connect function,

a wrap request function,

a retransmit timer function,

a parse function,

a retransmit date update function,

an acknowledgement reply function, and

a close function, and

calling the open function to obtain an initial sequence number, a range of allowable sequence numbers, a maximum number of retransmissions, and header and trailer sizes, and to allocate resources to needed to support the client socket;

(b) when a command is received from the client application to connect the client socket to the server application, calling the connect function to open a connection to the server application;

(c) when a command is received from the client application to transmit a request to the server application,

determining the next sequence number,

calling the wrap request function to wrap the request in a request message having a header containing the sequence number and a message type code indicating that the request message contains a request,

calling the retransmit timer function to obtain a retransmit timer setting for setting a retransmit timer that counts down from the retransmit timer setting,

starting the retransmit timer at the retransmit timer setting,

sending the request message to the transport layer for transmission to the server application, and

if the command to transmit the request asked that sequence number assigned to the message to be returned, then returning the sequence number to the client application;

(d) when a message is received from the transport layer,

calling the parse function to obtain the message type and sequence number of the message, and if the message type and sequence number indicate that the message is a provisional reply to the request, then modifying the retransmit timer to delay its expiration, and

if the message type and sequence number indicate that the message contains a reply to the request,

returning the reply to the client application if

the command to transmit the request specified that the reply be  
returned to the client application upon its receipt from the transport  
layer, or

the client application, since sending the command to transmit the  
request, has sent a command to return the reply upon its receipt  
from the transport layer,

but otherwise storing the reply;

- (e) when a command is received from the client application to return the reply to the  
request and the reply has been received and stored,

returning the reply to the client application;

- (f) when the reply is returned to the client application,

calling the acknowledgement reply function to send a message to the transport  
layer for transmission to the server application acknowledging the return of the  
reply to the client application, the message containing the sequence number and  
an indication that the message is an acknowledgement to the reply message;

- (g) if no message having a header containing the sequence number and a type code  
indicating that the message contains a reply has been received before the retransmit timer  
has expired, then repeatedly

calling the retransmit timer function to obtain a new retransmit timer setting for  
setting the retransmit timer,

setting and starting the retransmit timer, and



sending the request message to the transport layer for transmission to the server application,

until the retransmit timer has expired the maximum number of times or until a message having a header containing the sequence number and a type code indicating that the message contains a reply is received from the transport layer,

but if the retransmit timer has expired the maximum number of times and no such message has been received, then

reporting a transmission error to the client application and destroying any subsequent messages having a header containing the sequence number until the sequence number is assigned to a new request message;

- (h) when a command is received from the client application to close the client socket, calling the close function to free up any resources allocated to support the client socket;

and in the server system:

- (i) when a command is received from the server application to open a server socket, receiving from the server application a set of pointers to a set of personality functions, which include

the open function,

the parse function,

a wrap reply function,

a reply cache timer function, and

the close function, and

calling the open function to allocate resources needed to support the server socket;

(j) when a command is received from the server application to receive a request from the client application and then a message is received from the client application,

calling the parse function to obtain the message type and sequence number of the message and, if the message type indicates that the message contains a request, the request, and then returning the request to the server application process;

(k) if, after delivery of the request to the server application, a command is received from the server application to send a provisional reply, then

sending a message to the transport layer for transmission to the client application containing the sequence number and a message type code indicating that the message is a provisional reply to the request message;

(l) when a command is received from the server application to transmit a reply to the client application,

calling the wrap reply function to wrap the reply in a header containing the sequence number and a message type code indicating that the request message contains a reply,

calling the reply cache timer function to obtain a reply cache timer setting for setting a reply cache timer that counts down from the setting,

starting the reply cache timer,

sending the resulting message to the transport layer for transmission to the client application, and

caching the reply message;

(m) when a further message is received from the client application,

calling the parse function to obtain the message type and sequence number of the message and

if the message type indicates that the message contains a request and a cached reply message has the same sequence number, then

resending the cached reply message to the transport layer for transmission to the client application, and

if a message contains an indication that the message is an acknowledgement to a cached reply message, then

deleting everything except the sequence number from the cached reply message;

(n) when the reply cache timer expires, then

deleting the cached reply message; and

(o) when a command is received from the server application to close the server socket,

calling the close function to free up any resources allocated by the personality functions.